



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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Interim Pastor Bill Wessner  
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October 2021

# News and Views

From Pastor Bill

Interim

I do not pretend to know anything about loss or grief. To be sure I personally experience loss and grief, and I know many people who experience loss and grief, and many have talked with me about their loss and grief. Yet I cannot say anything to reconcile loss and grief. I can listen, and even when it is careful listening, I can follow a train of thought that might be helpful in an attempt to understand.

We make so much progress in our world through understanding, but our dealings with grief and loss probably has more to do with recognizing than understanding. Listening is crucial for that.

I have never been able to fix grief or loss. In my experience as a pastor I have only begun to recognize how very different and very much alike we all are. We all have the experience, and we all feel inadequate at helping others. When I offer words of comfort it is completely natural to say the very things that makes me feel better, because I need to hear it. Sometimes this becomes completely out of context for my friend's suffering. I might rationalize "he had a long life" or "at least she is not in pain anymore." But the family member might be focusing on their liveness at that moment, or a concern for the resulting transition the death has brought on. We are out of sync.

Occasionally people ask me questions like: "why would God let that happen?" Do they really want a theological explanation? Is it the right time? Is there a ripe time? In the midst of tragedy any of us can make up really silly excuses on behalf of God. How do we refrain ourselves?

I try very hard to just listen. If I do that my friend may say the very thing that brings clarity in their suffering. Sometimes I feel the experience of a loss of my own, and without comparing, (comparison ruins many things) I strive to just listen and receive the feeling myself. The gift to give is just to be able to hear. As reluctant as we all are to speak about personal things, we can listen, and practice being present inside one another's loss.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "We cannot find out what God is doing from beginning to end," so it is why we trust the Redeemer of the world, the one who buys us back from death, that our God is not short of compassion, through Jesus Christ's solidarity with humanity, we too may have the ability to suffer with and have compassion together. We do need to be together.

See you in church.

Peace

*Pastor Bill*



Dear Church Family,

Greetings.....

We're still open for worship and things are going well!

Choir has returned to rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. The choir is not only preparing music for each Sunday worship service, but preparation is underway for this year's Christmas Cantata. If you like to sing, maybe you'll consider lending your voice to making a "joyful noise."

Council and various Boards are meeting, via ZOOM, monthly and continually preparing for in-person activities as restrictions are lifted. We can always use extra hands. Remember, many hands make for light work. If you are interested in joining our leadership team or just feel the need to volunteer as a board member, please let me know. God's work our Hands.

Mark your calendar!! Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held, this year in-person, on December 12, 2021 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Sorry there won't be a potluck following the meeting, due to the Covid restrictions. We will be presenting the proposed budget for 2022, and the following leadership positions are vacant: Treasurer, Council Secretary, Evangelism and Youth. For those of you who aren't able to attend in-person that's okay, because you'll be able to participate via ZOOM. More information will be provided in mid-November.

Thank you for your continued support. All that's being done, couldn't be done without each of you. St. Luke's church family is strong as always.

Blessings and Peace to you

*Carolyn Andrews*



## WOMEN OF FAITH

Our first in-person meeting was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:30am with lunch being provided by W-



ELCA. We had a very nice turn out with 21 ladies attending the meeting.



Our October Fall Festival will be a modified version of the normal Fall Festival on October 2, 2021, starting at 8:00am

with all sales being by Donation Only. Those wishing to drop off donations for the Yard Sale can be brought to the church and placed in the back room behind the Schultz Hall until September 30, 2021. There will also be a Country Store sale providing pre-packaged baked items, so please bring any baked items on Saturday morning by 8AM that can be sold on Saturday.

Upcoming events currently planned by W-ELCA include:

November - Thanks Offering Service Sunday, November 21, 2021. A sign-up sheet for participation in the service will soon be made available.

*continued*

December - Annual Christmas Party to be held December 11, 2021. More information to be provided next month.

Please plan to attend the next W-ELCA Meeting on November 13, 2021. Luncheon will be a Soup Bar.

Yours in Christ Love,  
Marlene Kiser, WELCA President



Our Community Concerns Team is going to place a barrel in the narthex for the Elk Grove food bank.

Community Concerns/WELCA have partnered with the Elk Grove food bank to collect items for Thanksgiving. I'm calling it "just the fixings".

We will be collecting all the things that go with a Thanksgiving dinner. I am hoping for no turkeys!!!!

Thank you in advance,  
Linda

**Music! Music! Music!**

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC BOARD**

What a delight it has been these past few weeks to have our choir back! Although small in numbers, their voices are strong and angelic! Choir Director and Organist, Jane, and the handful of choir members diligently show up for choir practice on Wednesday evenings to practice, not only special music for Sunday services, but they are already learning a Cantata for the special Christmas service on December 19th.

The other special music we hear Sunday mornings before services begin at 10:30 am, is provided by Jacob Wilson, who faithfully brings his keyboard and fills the Sanctuary with joyful music. Jacob often provides special music during services, as well!

Karen Linfor is our song leader and she, too, often sings solos during services. She has a beautiful soprano voice I could listen to all day!

A BIG THANK YOU to all of these talented individuals! How blessed we are to have such extraordinary musicians!

In Christ's love,  
Shirley Prouty



The Zoom Bible Study continues Tuesdays at 10:00.

Topic: The Gospel of Luke

Study Guide: Luke: N.T. Wrights For Everyone Bible Study Guide

Author of Study: N.T Wright

Please let Marlene Kiser know by email: marlenek@att.net or by phone (916-424-8626, please leave a message) if you are interested in attending the Zoom classes that will run for 26 weeks so you can be included in the invite. 10 Study Guide are available to be purchased for \$8.00, for the study. More study guides will be purchased if needed. (the guide is also available for Kindle)

- Note: our cycle of readings on Sundays will have Luke at it's center beginning November 28th.

# Readings in October

October 3

Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8,  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

October 10

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17,  
Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

October 17

Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16,  
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

October 24

Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126,  
Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

October 31 Reformation Day

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46,  
Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36



# IN LOVING MEMORY

Our friends in Christ who are now in the heavenly kingdom.



Gabby Cox,  
August 31

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. -John 15:11-12

JD Cox,

September 29

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. -John 110:27-29



Please uphold their family in prayer, and contact, that they are being held tightly in the loving embrace of the Lord as they grieve.

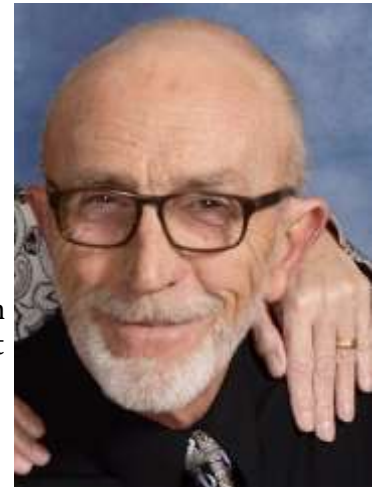


Mary Frances  
Harris,  
September 2

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. -Ruth 1:16

Al Moser,  
September 14

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. -John 3:17



## All Saints Sunday

We will be remembering the Saints Triumphant, that is the Saints in Glory. Because we are now gathering in Worship please make the office aware of St Luke Family and and your family members you would like to remember on this special day.

Please be in touch with the church office  
office@slelca.org or Peggy Mosier

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

*August 2021*

*(On-site worship services did not return until  
March 7, 2021 ).*

# October Birthdays

**Comments:**

- a. August was a five-Sunday month; nevertheless, the monthly contributions fell short of the monthly Budget.
- b. The continuing concerns are the year-to date figures and the number of unique contributors each month.
- c. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Jack Fenske 916-714-3626, [LRFenske@comcast.net](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)  
St. Luke's Financial Secretary*

Grayson Olmeda	October 02
Micayla Shower	October 02
Ferd Boschee	October 03
Hannelore Marchuk	October 03
Howard Triebwasser	October 04
Gail Weber	October 07
Thelma Williams	October 07
Ron Franklin	October 08
Jeff Kiser	October 08
Ofelia Ojeda	October 08
Isaac Diaz	October 15
Duane Kiser	October 19
Joan Mooney	October 21
Greg Neidich	October 27
Christina Hisamoto	October 28
Dixon Richey	October 28

<b>General Fund (Only) Contributions</b>		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$13,365	\$105,907
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$620	-\$10,188
	-4.4%	-8.8%
<b>Compared to 2020</b>	-\$1,291	-\$20,258
	-8.8%	-16.1%
<b>No. of Contributors</b>		
<b>2021</b> (Current Year)	53	54 avg.
<b>2020</b> (Last Year)	59	63 avg.
<b>Other Contributions:</b>		
Memorials –	\$290.00	
Youth Fund –	\$45.00	
Facility Use –	\$200.00	

*Note: Plus values are above Budget/Last Year; minus values are below.*

# Appreciation

My family and I appreciate all the prayers and thoughts expressed at the passing of Walter. The many prayers while he was ill and especially the out pouring of care and prayer when he passed. We truly appreciate the St Luke's congregation and especially Pastor Bill for his help during this difficult time.

In deep appreciation

*Pauline Arndt and family*

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My great appreciation to this congregations for showing tremendous support to the families and one another through the losses we have experienced these last months. I am grateful for presence and participation at the Funeral and Memorial and Homecoming services. The trust and resilience of this community of faith is well demonstrated in this very difficult time..

Peace *Pastor Bill.*

# From Our Church

**"A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed"**  
You're invited to celebrate World Food Day with "A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed," featuring Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steves. This online benefit for **ELCA World Hunger** will take place on **Thursday, Oct. 14**, at 7:30 p.m. Central time: **5:30 p.m. Pacific Time**

To register Google:

A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed ELCA

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Register today.



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Return Service Requested



*Join Us every  
Sunday  
at 10:30 am  
for In Person  
Worship*